



**Editor
at large**

by
Abe D. Jones Jr.

Organ music came drifting upward -- a hymn.

"You're not in heaven," Frances Griffin, Old Salem's director of information, assured me. It was the organ of the Single Brothers House, playing below the second-floor offices in which we sat.

It did make heavenly music, and the combination of the sacred and the secular had a peculiar appropriateness. The Moravians who built Salem in the years preceding the American Revolution were moved by their religious faith to come to the wilderness, but they brought with them a keen business sense and an industriousness which made their settlement a supply depot for the whole region.

A newspaper which makes this clear to visitors is sold for 15 cents American money, or for whatever it will bring in French Guinea or English Half-Pence. "Nachrichten" is the title. That's German for "News." If the Moravians had published a paper, it would have included the kind of items garnered from the Salem archives and placed in today's "Nachrichten," which is authentic also in its Caslon and Scotch Roman types.

Eye for humor

The paper is edited by Hunter James, who is a former "Record" reporter and editorial writer. He has an eye for intriguing detail and humor, as well as a fine historical sense.

He included in the first issue, dated June 25, 1775, part of George III's address to the House of Lords on "the daring Spirit of Defiance and Disobedience to the Laws" rife in the colonies in the summer of 1775. The paper, to be published periodically during the American Revolution Bicentennial season, shows how the trials of the Moravians fit into the broader picture of the era on the North Carolina frontier and beyond—for the Moravians kept in close touch with the church fathers in Pennsylvania and in Europe.

"Nachrichten" includes an extract from the report of Bishop John Michael Graff to the church's leaders in Europe: "The critical Condition of the English Colonies becomes constantly worse, though we personally have no Reason to complain. It looks as though many Persons would remain loyal to the Government, and from a Number of Settlements Addresses have been sent to his (the King's) Government, but we intend for the Present to remain quiet."

A recently completed exhibit in the Salem museum shows how difficult this was for the Moravians, caught between the opposing armies, and levied upon by every passing armed band for food and equipment.

In middle

Old Salem is in its 25th year as a preserved historic area. Prior to that time, the pleasant historic district had been protected only by sentiment and chance. A post World War II proposal to erect a supermarket on Salem Hill roused the community to save a priceless asset. Varied license plates in the visitor parking area show the wide drawing power of the miraculously preserved religious settlement. A program of interpretation makes the past live, and the Moravian records are so thorough restoration can be authentic, right down to the color of the house-paint.

Church OKs manse offer

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church voted Sunday to accept an offer from a Guilford County couple for the purchase of the church's tudor-style manse on Fisher Park Circle.

C.H. Phillips, church business manager, said details of the transaction will not be concluded until later this week, but he did reveal the accepted purchase offer was about \$125,000.

The appraised value of the rambling, stone mansion, located on a three-acre estate overlooking Fisher Park, was \$175,000.

The purchase offer was made by Mr. and Mrs. Glynn Cowart III. Cowart is a local businessman and Mrs. Cowart is an interior designer.

Phillips said the Cowart couple plans to live in the house and that Mrs. Cowart will conduct her design business from it.

The house was built in the late 1920s by Julian Price, one of the founders of Jefferson-Standard Life Insurance Co. Called "Hillside," the estate was donated to nearby First Presbyterian in the late 1950s by Ralph C. Price, son of Julian.

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Staff photo by Dave Nicholson

Time to shiver

A little rain isn't enough to call off swimming practice. So 5-year-old Hollis Tong of Greensboro sought shelter from the annoying drizzle and morning chill at Lindley Park Pool. The weatherman doesn't offer much encouraging news: more rain is in the forecast.

La Mancha

Owner wants talks on flood

BY DARST MCNAIRY
Record Staff Writer

Spokesmen for the owners of La Mancha apartments today proclaimed concern for the "safety and well being" of their tenants, but charged Sunday's flooding "shows that the city's flood control estimates were wrong and are wrong."

Dan German, regional property manager for Lea Co. of Virginia Beach, Va., in a short statement approved by lawyers hired to press flood damage suits against the City of Greensboro, suggested the apartments and the city get together on the problem.

"We would propose that our environmental consultant sit down with somebody with the city and talk about ways to keep this flood damage from recurring," German said.

He claimed that only one occupied apartment had received water damage in the Sunday morning flooding.

Several La Mancha tenants felt sure the damage was more severe.

One of the tenants was also mad that he had not been told about previous flooding when he moved into the complex a few months ago.

Dan German confirmed that prospective tenants were not told in the past about the flooding incidents. But new or prospective tenants will be told in the future, he said.

"We haven't told them in the past," German explained, "because we have been relying on the fact that the city told us in the past that it (the severe flood on Labor Day, 1974) was a 100-year flood and that it wouldn't happen for another 100 years."

The Lea Co. presently has a \$1.35 million damages suit pending in Guilford Superior Court against the City of Greensboro for the 1974 flood and plans to up the amount by \$500,000 to cover May 1975 flood damages to the units on the banks of South Buffalo Creek.

A hearing is also pending on a request for an injunction that would halt further construction in the La Mancha watershed.

Meanwhile, flood-plagued tenants of low-lying sections of the

apartment complex cast wary eyes at this morning's overcast skies, wondering if they should return home from temporary shelters.

Many had hurriedly dressed and waded to their cars at mid-morning Sunday, after police and neighbors knocked at doors to speed the warning of rapidly rising waters.

At least 11 families of individuals were placed by the Red

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Two floods 'preventable'

BY JO SPIVEY
Record Staff Writer

The La Mancha owners could have prevented the last two floods at the apartment complex with proper "housekeeping and grading work," City Manager T. Z. Osborne said today.

"I don't mean to infer the first major flood in 1974 could have been avoided, but, in my opinion, appropriate action on part of the owners would have prevented the last two floods," Osborne said.

"They (the owners), with very little work, could solve the problem on the site," he continued. "They are responsible for taking the necessary preventive action."

The city manager placed the blame for the most recent flood-

ing episodes on several factors.

•The manner in which the site was graded.

•Lack of maintenance of the creek banks, allowing substantial growth that impedes the water's progress.

•Building a sewer line and pier supporting it to cross the creek at the most critical point.

•Constructing the parking lot in a manner that contributed to the last two floods.

This combination of factors made it almost impossible for the water not to flood the area when the creek gets full," he said.

Osborne said he would make a report to City Council at its meeting this afternoon on the flooding in the apartment complex.

Prisoner in Hitler Germany

'I found I had to be tough-minded'

BY GLENN BRANK
Record Staff Writer

Thirty years ago, Boleslaw Szostak ended four years of forced labor in a German coal mine. Today, he watched construction of a new office to house his engineering firm, an office designed by his own son.

Occupancy of the \$425,000 building at 720 Summit Ave. is tentatively scheduled for early December. Piedmont Natural Gas Co. has signed a long-term lease for the ground floor, while Szostak and other firms will occupy a second story.

In an interview, Szostak described his journey from Poland to Germany to business success in Greensboro.

"I was 18 when I was taken to Germany to work in the mines," he said. "When we were liberated by American GIs in 1945, I joined the U.S. Army until the end of the year. Then the Polish government in exile started training young men and sent me to an engineering school in Germany."

Three things happened to Szostak during this time. First, he earned the nickname "Bill" because GI friends couldn't pronounce "Boleslaw." Then he made preparations to come to the U.S. under sponsorship of a cousin living in Reidsville. And finally, he met a German woman who became his wife.

"We came over on an old transport ship with 2,000 other d.p.s.—displaced persons," he recalled. "At first, we thought all of America was like New York. Then we went to Reidsville and found there were a lot of smaller places." Another discovery Szostak remembers was the strange aroma of American tobacco in this leaf producing area.

Szostak went to work for a metal fabrication firm here, then moved to Norfolk and Indiana. He returned to Greensboro in 1961 and started his own business in 1963. His projects include various local school and church buildings as well as out-of-town

work. "Right now, we're involved with a \$9 million career education center in Forsyth County."

He and his wife, who works as his secretary, have also found time to raise six children. The son who designed the new office just graduated from N.C. State School of Architecture. Two other sons are enrolled at State and a daughter will attend East Carolina University next year.

Szostak's father and two sisters remain in Poland. He visited them in 1971 but does not regret leaving. "I think of myself as an American, just like anyone else, except instead of being here by accident of birth, I made a decision to become a citizen."

And he attributes his success to an attitude he developed thirty years ago in a German coal mine. "I found then that I had to be tough-minded—I had to push ahead on my own."

"The secret is in doing something you want to do and doing it as well as you can."



Szostak

Holland visitor

Prisons 'make criminals'

BY GRETA TILLEY
Record Staff Writer

"In my country, if you would have dogs in a situation like that, you would not treat them that way."

Speaking is Gerard Damen of Amsterdam, Holland, a 30-year-old man with the fresh, youthful appearance of 21. He works with delinquent youth in his native land and is spending four months in this country to study social work at Greensboro's Drug Action Council.

He is talking about prisons he has visited in North Carolina.

"I find them very depressing. I have nightmares about them," he says. "They put 50 or 60 people in one room, the toilets are all open, there is no way to be alone, to be yourself."

"It is like they are animals in a big cage. It is dehumanizing."

Damen, speaking in flawless, rapid English, says keeping young people in prisons like

these can do little to help and much to harm them.

"Everybody can do something wrong one time, but to do something and get put in a place like this...It makes criminals."

Some Americans might feel Damen has a liberal approach to dealing with offenders. But he says his approach, which is widely catching on in Holland, is the best one.

The Amsterdam social worker is against punishment. Instead, he relies on counseling and teaching a person self-awareness to combat problems.

"If you make somebody aware of what he did, tell him why it was wrong and force him to think about his life and the people he goes around with, this is much more of a therapy," he says. "I do not believe in the theory, 'you hit me so I am going to hit you too.' Putting somebody away does not change his behavior or his mind."

In Holland, prisons are being

torn down instead of built, he says. And an effort is being made to introduce offenders to a social worker as soon as they are arrested for a crime. "In Holland, it is quite difficult for a person to get into jail if he committed his first crime, or if the crime he committed was not a big one," Damen explains.

Violent crimes have picked up in his country in recent years, but other crimes, such as sex offenses, are down. And Holland has a comparatively lower crime rate than the U.S., Damen says, even though the punishment concept is not used as often.

The social worker finds the U.S. a fascinating place, but is concerned "because the money and technical skills are not always used for the best things."

And this country puts far too much stress on competition, he says, which could be the cause of many problems experienced by young people.

Everywhere I travel, in Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, they always have to point out something they have that is the biggest and the best," Damen says. "We have this kind of status, or this kind of clock, and this kind of lattern, and it is better."

"This makes people think that to be a good person, they also have to be the best in what they do, or have the biggest. That is not so."

A similar situation used to exist in his country, Damen adds, but it is much better now. In fact, he says, a law is in the making that, if passed, would prohibit persons who make the highest salaries from having more than five times the money of people with the lowest salaries. "That is real democracy," according to Damen's way of thinking.

Another depressing fact of life for Damen is the large number

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Damen: 'Nightmares'